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useful to all persons who are interested in the study of plant environments, especially to those who have not access to the author's Mississippi reports above mentioned ; and it should stimulate the investigation of a branch of phytogeography which has received entirely too little attention in America.

ROLAND M. HARPER.

### NEWS ITEMS

According to a recent number of *Science*, Dr. M. A. Chrysler of Harvard University has accepted a position as associate professor of botany in the University of Maine.

Mr. Homer D. House has resigned the associate professorship of botany and bacteriology in Clemson College, South Carolina. He plans to spend the coming year at the New York Botanical Garden.

Dr. William L. Bray has resigned the professorship of botany in the University of Texas in order to accept the professorship of botany in Syracuse University, recently vacated by Dr. J. E. Kirkwood.

Dr. W. C. Coker, associate professor of botany in the University of North Carolina, spent a considerable part of July in studies at the New York Botanical Garden. He sailed from New York on August 3 for a visit to Porto Rico.

Professor F. S. Earle, recently director of the Cuban Agricultural Experiment Station, has been at the New York Botanical Garden for several weeks, continuing his studies of the gill-fungi. He sailed from New York for Cuba on August 10.

Dr. E. N. Transeau, who for the past year has been an investigator at the Carnegie Station for Experimental Evolution at Cold Spring Harbor, Long Island, N. Y., has accepted an appointment as professor of botany in the State Normal School at Charleston, Illinois.

Miss Winfred J. Robinson, instructor in botany in Vassar College, has a year's leave of absence, which she will devote to studies at the New York Botanical Garden. Miss Helen L. Pal-

liser will have charge of the botanical courses in Vassar during the coming year.

We note with regret the death of a former member of the Club, Mr. Samuel Henshaw, which occurred at West New Brighton, Staten Island, on July 22. Mr. Henshaw was head gardener of the New York Botanical Garden from the beginning of its active development in 1896 to 1901.

Mr. Edward W. Berry, of the Johns Hopkins University, is spending two months in a field study of the Mesozoic deposits of Virginia, North Carolina, and South Carolina. Important plant-bearing beds have already been discovered in several localities in North Carolina and in one locality in South Carolina.

The thirteenth annual field meeting of the Vermont Botanical Club was held in Pownal, Vermont, July 2 and 3, 1907. About forty persons were in attendance, including several members of the Connecticut Botanical Club. Tuesday, July 2, was devoted to exploring the limestone cliffs at North Pownal, under the guidance of Mr. W. W. Eggleston, while Wednesday, the 3d, was spent in visiting the bogs of the central and eastern parts of the town, Miss Grace Greylock Niles, author of "Bog-trotting for Orchids," acting as guide.

Professor Francis E. Lloyd, formerly of the Teachers College, Columbia University, and more recently connected with the Desert Botanical Laboratory of the Carnegie Institution, has accepted a position as botanical expert with the Continental Rubber Company of America, which owns very extensive tracts of land in central Mexico and has its headquarters in New York City. Dr. J. E. Kirkwood has resigned his professorship of botany in Syracuse University in order to assist Professor Lloyd in this new work, which they have already begun. The main plant of the company is located at Torreon, State of Coahuila, and it is understood that the "guayule," a composite of the genus *Parthenium*, is the source of the rubber obtained. The present address of Professors Lloyd and Kirkwood is Hacienda de Cedros, Mazapil, Zacatecas, Mexico.